

**PLUK eNews May 31 – June 4, 2004
Vol 2 Num 47**



Welcome to the weekly PLUK eNews!

We are proud to present news of interest for Montana families of children with disabilities and special health care needs, and for the professionals and educators who serve them; however, it does not constitute an endorsement.

An understanding heart is everything is a teacher, and cannot be esteemed highly enough. One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feeling. The curriculum is so much necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child.

-- Carl Gustav Jung

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June 2004 Monthly Update Available online

The June 2004 Monthly Update is available online at:

http://www.pluk.org/MU/MU_Jun04.pdf

The paper version should be out within the next two weeks.

##

Nonverbal Communication Cards - Revisited

(Note from editor: last week we published a story about nonverbal communication cards, see

http://www.dailylocal.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=11422160&BRD=1671&PAG=461&dept_id=17782&rft=6 . We had many requests as to where they may be obtained. After some research, we found this source.)

Can your first responders communicate with EVERYONE they need to? A person with Autism? The lost child who is frightened to speak? Anyone whose speech is difficult to understand? People who do not speak English as a first language? An individual with a seizure disorder or Alzheimer's disease? An individual with deafness or who is hard of hearing? Individuals who have suffered strokes or closed head injuries?

Various communication barriers make it difficult or even impossible for many individuals to ask for help. First responders are often faced with having to gather important information from individuals where communication may be hampered for a variety of reasons. The *Operation Communication Board* is a new tool designed to improve communication abilities for those difficult times.

- The icons used are easily understood and the text is in both English and Spanish.
- The format is used internationally in special education programs for most ages and levels of cognitive ability.
- The boards are laminated for durability and at 4" x 8" are easy to carry and use.

Operation Communication Boards are intended for simple communication by both parties to access and clarify immediate needs and to gather basic information needed to assist in emergency situations. These boards are not intended to replace a qualified translator or experienced care provider.

Operation Communication Boards are produced and sold at cost by the non-profit organization Silent No More, Inc. They are sold in packages of 10 with info sheets for \$5.00 plus shipping and handling charges. For more information please contact Susan Rzucidlo at (610) 274-2364 or e-mail srz@dol.net.

(Information supplied by LEAN On Us, <http://www.leanonus.org>. The Law Enforcement Awareness Network offers recommendations for resources and materials to assist first responders in the field.)

##

Agencies urged to hire disabled students for summer jobs

By Elizabeth Newell, enewell@govexec.com

May 24, 2004 - Labor Secretary Elaine Chao and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld issued a joint memo Monday asking agencies to step up use of a program designed to provide summer internships for college students and recent graduates with disabilities.

Through the Workforce Recruitment Program for College Students with Disabilities, the Labor Department gives public- and private-sector organizations access to a database of almost 1,600 potential interns. The database provides employers with background information about the students, who are pre-screened through face-to-face interviews. Employers can search the database by state, school or area of study.

"It's an advantage to get a diverse workforce in place," said W. Roy Grizzard Jr., assistant secretary of Labor for disability employment policy. The recruitment program, he added, "brings an individual with a disability into an office where an individual without a disability can see that they can carry the workload and make a positive contribution."

Read the complete release at: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0504/052404e1.htm>

##

House Committee Approves McKeon Bill to Improve Access to Technology for Individuals with Disabilities

May 19, 2004 WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The U.S. House Committee on Education & the Workforce today approved H.R. 4278, the Improving Access to Assistive Technology for Individuals with Disabilities Act. The bill, authored by Rep. Howard P. "Buck" McKeon (R-CA), reauthorizes the assistive technology state grant program and will help to ensure a larger share of the resources distributed under the program goes directly to individuals with disabilities. The bill was approved by voice vote with no recorded opposition.

"I'm pleased that the Committee came together in a bipartisan way to pass the Improving Access to Assistive Technology for Individuals with Disabilities Act," said Rep. John Boehner (R-OH), chairman of the Education & the Workforce Committee. "The common-sense reforms we've made today will help even more individuals overcome the limitations of their disabilities with the help of technology."

Read the complete release at:

<http://edworkforce.house.gov/press/press108/second/05may/at051904.htm>

##

Life Skills Groups Starting Monday June 7, Billings

What: The Montana Foster Care Independence Program's next session of Life Skills Groups, for youth ages 15-19 years.

Topics: Employment, Money Management, Apartment Living, Cooking, etc.

When: Monday June 7, 2004, 3:30-5pm. Groups run for six weeks.

Where: First Steps House, 204 S. 29th

Contact: Paige Koster, 259-2558

##

Money Smart: Free training program

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) has launched a free training program called Money Smart, geared to teach adults outside the financial mainstream how to enhance money and banking skills. The program consists of 10 instructor-led modules on basic financial topics and presents an interesting opportunity for organizations interested in training persons with disabilities. Out of the 49 million Americans with disabilities, one in three persons live at or below the poverty level. To learn more about Money Smart, visit <http://www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/moneysmart/index.html>

##

HHS Will Launch New Program Supporting Physical Activity for Children and Youth with Disabilities

More than 50 Partner Organizations Will Support The "I Can Do It, You Can Do It" Campaign, Kicking Off May 26

HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson this month will launch a new program to support good health and physical activity for the 6 million American children and youth who have disabilities. Joined by more than 50 participating national organizations, the initiative is being led by HHS' Office on Disability in collaboration with the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports (PCPFS).

Read the complete release at: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2004pres/20040519.html>

##

FOR DISABLED: Virginia guide sets trend

By Zinie Chen Sampson, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RICHMOND - St. John's Church is Richmond's oldest house of worship, and the site of Patrick Henry's famous "Give me liberty or give me death" speech in 1775.

For visitors who need it, here is some equally important information: The church's brick paths are level enough for people in wheelchairs to navigate without assistance, and a wheelchair lift is also available.

Facts about St. John's and other state tourist sites appear in The Virginia Guide for Persons With Disabilities, which was recently commended by the Society for Accessible Travel and Hospitality, a national advocacy group.

Read the complete article at:

http://www.journalnow.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=WSJ%2FMGArticle%2FWSJ_BasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1031775578627

##

Self-Paced Web Class Explains ADA

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Basic Building Blocks is an introductory web course that explores the legal requirements and the spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The course content is self-paced and organized into 12 topics that have been designed to be studied in order, covering the basic principles and core concepts of the Act. The Great Lakes ADA and Accessible IT Center has developed this online course through a collaboration with the 10 Regional Disability and Business Technical Assistance Centers (DBTACs). <http://www.adabasics.org/>

##

Parents Wanted for Survey

IRIS Media, Inc. creates research-based educational materials for teachers, families and adults with developmental disabilities. They are currently looking for parents of adult children with cognitive or intellectual disabilities to participate in a research project on future planning. Parents will receive planning materials to evaluate and can earn up to \$100 for their participation. For more information, parents can phone Lisa Cassidy toll free at 877-343-4747, x204; can email her at lisa@lookiris.com; or can check the website at <http://www.lookiris.com/concern.html>.

##

Immunization Safety Review: Vaccines and Autism (2004)

This eighth and final report of the Immunization Safety Review Committee examines the hypothesis that vaccines, specifically the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine and thimerosal-containing vaccines, are causally associated with autism. The committee reviewed the extant published and unpublished epidemiological studies regarding causality and studies of potential biologic mechanisms by which these immunizations might cause autism.

The committee concludes that the body of epidemiological evidence favors rejection of a causal relationship between the MMR vaccine and autism. The committee also concludes that the body of epidemiological evidence favors rejection of a causal relationship between thimerosal-containing vaccines and autism. The committee further finds that potential biological mechanisms for vaccine-induced autism that have been generated to date are theoretical only.

The committee does not recommend a policy review of the current schedule and recommendations for the administration of either the MMR vaccine or thimerosal-containing vaccines. The committee recommends a public health response that fully supports an array of vaccine safety activities.

In addition, the committee recommends that available funding for autism research be channeled to the most promising areas. The committee makes additional recommendations regarding surveillance and epidemiological research, clinical studies, and communication related to these vaccine safety concerns.

Access the complete report at: <http://www.nap.edu/books/030909237X/html/>

##

TWO NEW GENETIC DISCOVERIES HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR MENTAL RETARDATION

A team of researchers has discovered a gene for Cornelia de Lange Syndrome, a disorder consisting of mental retardation, heart defects, and physical abnormalities. The discovery is expected to speed the development of a prenatal genetic test for the syndrome. Read more at <http://www.nichd.nih.gov/new/releases/cornelia.cfm>

In other news, researchers are a step closer to understanding why a high proportion of the population is genetically at risk for neural tube defects. Certain neural tube defects can be associated with mental retardation. Read more at http://www.nichd.nih.gov/new/releases/genetic_basis.cfm

Both studies were funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, one of the National Institutes of Health.

##

Two-Year Report Card on Federal Education Reform:

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND IS "FAILING OUR CHILDREN"

FALSE ASSUMPTIONS, ARBITRARY RULES HURT SCHOOL QUALITY, EQUITY

NEW ACCOUNTABILITY MODEL PROPOSED TO IMPROVE CLASSROOMS

National Center for Fair & Open Testing, Thursday, May 27, 2004

The first two years of implementation of the controversial "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB) law have damaged education quality and equity because of the law's incorrect assumptions and arbitrary requirements, according to a 170-page report released today. In addition to critiquing NCLB, *Failing Our Children* by the National Center for Fair & Open Testing outlines a fundamentally different approach to assessment and accountability that the authors say would better promote needed school reforms.

"The current federal law is aggravating, not solving, the real problems that cause many children to be left behind," explained FairTest Executive Director, Monty Neill, the report's lead author. "NCLB must be thoroughly overhauled if the federal government is to make a useful contribution to enhancing the quality of education in U.S. schools, particularly for low-income and minority group students."

Read the complete press release at:

http://www.fairtest.org/Failing%20Our%20Children/Failing_Our_Children_PR_052604.html

View the report at: http://www.fairtest.org/Failing_Our_Children_Report.html

##

What's Proficient? The No Child Left Behind Act and the Many Meanings of Proficiency

The goal of the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) is to have 100 percent of America's public school students "proficient" in reading and math by the year 2014. This is hardly a rhetorical goal. NCLB's Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) formula requires states to calculate annual achievement targets for schools and districts based on the ultimate goal of 100 percent proficiency; missing those annual targets means failing AYP, which carries increasingly stiff sanctions.

But what does "proficient" mean? Does it mean, as U.S. Department of Education officials and others usually say, that students are on grade level? Does proficient mean the same thing in California as in Colorado, for example, or in math as in reading, or across the school grades? The answer is no on all counts. By demonstrating that "proficient" does not have a single, objective meaning, this issue brief helps in understanding the wide differences in AYP failure rates across the states, the meaning of student achievement reports under NCLB, and the prospects for achieving the law's goal of 100 percent proficiency by 2014. For more information, contact Bella Rosenberg, Assistant to the President, brosenbe@aft.org

Download the issue brief at:

<http://www.aft.org/privatization/downloads/WhatsProficient.pdf>

##

Training/Workshops/Meetings/Conferences in Montana::

Free ADA Workshop, June 3, Billings

In celebration of the 40th Anniversary of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act and the 30th Anniversary of the Montana State Human Rights Act, the Billings Job Service Employers Committee is pleased to invite you to a workshop on the Americans with Disabilities Act. Get your questions about the ADA answered directly from the EEOC.

Featuring: Jeanette Leino, Director of the Seattle District Office and Acting Director of the Denver District office of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

Billings, Montana Holiday Inn Grand Montana on Thursday June 3, 2004 9:00AM-11:00AM.

Hope to see you there. No reservations required. No Charge.

##

Life Skills Groups Starting Monday June 7, Billings

What: The Montana Foster Care Independence Program's next session of Life Skills Groups, for youth ages 15-19 years.

Topics: Employment, Money Management, Apartment Living, Cooking, etc.

When: Monday June 7, 2004, 3:30-5pm. Groups run for six weeks.

Where: First Steps House, 204 S. 29th
Contact: Paige Koster, 259-2558

##

Facing Autism, June 7, Miles City
Facing Autism, June 8, Glendive
Facing Autism, June 9, Wolf Point

by Lynne Hamilton

Contact : Helen Murphy at 406/485-2321 or email: dmurphy@middrivers.com

##

Reading Literacy/Math Competency: Assessment & Prevention of Learning Disabilities, June 13-15, Billings

<http://www.pluk.org/masp04.pdf>

The Montana Association of School Psychologists' Summer Institute 2004 will be held at the Mansfield Health Education Center in Billings on June 13-15, 2004. Download the brochure at the link above for information on the presenters, agenda, credit, and registration.

##

Transition Institute, June 14-15, Missoula

This two day conference is designed to provide increased knowledge and strategies for providing information about services and partnerships in the areas of housing, employment, and education to assist at-risk students who are transitioning from high school.

For more information or to register go to the Region V CSPD Online Registration website at <http://www.cspd.net> or contact Nancy Marks at admin@cspd.net or 728-2400ext 5036 for more information.

##

Power Mobility Camp 2004, June 14-18, Great Falls

Power Mobility Camp 2004 - Will take place in Great Falls, MT from June 14-18, 2004. This camp provides an opportunity for individuals of any age to try power mobility. Interested persons can contact Mary O'Connell, PT at 1-800-732-0323 or 406-243-5688. Sponsored by the Montana Adaptive Equipment Program.

##

Montana Behavior Institute, June 14-18, Bozeman

Contact: <http://www.montana.edu/cs/mbi>

##

Community Lifespan Respite Training, June 15, Billings

Community Lifespan Respite is a collaborative inter-agency program administered through STEP to provide respite (short, temporary care) to children and adults with disabilities, healthcare concerns, special needs and to those at risk of abuse and neglect.

The primary purpose of respite is to provide relief from demands of ongoing care, thereby reducing stress, preventing abuse and neglect and enhancing family preservation and support.

The goal of CLR is to ensure all families have access to some form of respite service. CLR does not provide the respite itself or employ providers, but is a point of contact and resource for families in need.

CLR has three major components:

- Information, referral and education for families
- Provider recruitment, screening and monthly trainings
- Financial assistance information and other resources available

CLR provides trainings that are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from Noon — 1pm, at the STEP office at 1501 14h St. West, Suite 210. For those attending the trainings we provide a light lunch. We try to offer a wide variety of topics for the trainings. The trainings are free and all we ask is that you RSVP so we are prepared with the correct number of materials and right amount of food. The upcoming trainings that are scheduled are:

- June 15, 2004— Nancy Meyers from STEP on Safety and Universal Precautions

For further information please contact, Tami Haan, Lifespan Respite Coordinator at 248-2055.

##

MSDB Summer Skills Program, June 20-26 & July 11-17

The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI), Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind (MSDB), and the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind Foundation will co-sponsor summer programs at MSDB. The programs will target communication, social interaction, independent living skills and use of technology for students between the ages of 9-14 (7 and 8 year olds will be considered on a case-by-case basis for the deaf camp only) who have hearing impairments or deafness, and the ages of 9-16 who have blindness or visual impairments. The dates this year are June 20th through the 26th for deaf or hearing impaired students and July 11th through the 17th for visually blind or impaired children.

The week-long programs for both deaf and blind students are provided at no cost to the student for room, board and transportation. Transportation to and from the program will be reimbursed at state rates.

For more information call 800-882-6732 or visit <http://www.sdb.state.mt.us>.

##

Assistive Technology - Matching Student Needs to Available Resources, June 21-24, & July 19-22, MSU-Billings

Course No.: SPED 493-400 or SPED 593-400

This workshop introduces IEP Team members to a student centered decision-making process used to identify individual student need for assistive technology. Many IEP teams are unsure how to address the issue of assistive technology in an IEP. Using case studies from their own situation, participants will 1) define assistive technology and IEP requirements 2) identify local and national resources 3) be introduced to the student centered decision-making process 4) match individual student need to appropriate technology 5) identify the different types of non-tech, low tech and high tech solutions 6) learn the difference between assistive technology and instructional technology. Groups of IEP team members and general educators are encouraged to attend. OPI renewal units are available.

You can register at <http://www.msubillings.edu/outreach>

For information, contact Ms. Terry Lankutis, 406/388-7831 or LankutisT@aol.com.

##

Davis Learning Strategies Introduction and Lab workshop, June 21-22, Kalispell

Elsie Johnson, associate member of Kalispell PLUK board announces a Davis Learning Strategies Introduction and Lab workshop here in Montana saving attendees the cost of traveling to Reading Research Council in California.

Davis Learning Strategies goal is to give K-3 classroom teachers a way to develop accomplished readers with life long skills in 'how to learn'. Core Strategies include Davis Focusing Skills, Symbol Mastery, and Reading Exercises. Would you like to reach all the children regardless of their learning style, manage your classroom more effectively, have methods easy to implement and flexible, meet early intervention reading needs the prevent special ed referrals?

Contact Elsie Johnson of Learning Options at elsie@thelearningoptions.com or 1.800.276.3138 for more information or visit the web site at <http://www.thelearningoptions.com>

##

Loving Touch Certified Infant Massage Instructor CIMI Training, July 16-18, Bozeman

Friday, Saturday, Sunday 8:00am - 4:30 pm

Location: Healthworks Institute, Bozeman, Mt

The International Loving Touch Foundation, Inc. invites you to further your knowledge and education by becoming a Certified Infant Massage Instructor (CIMI). Participants will be certified to teach parents to massage their newborns and children. This 3-day training is presented through lecture, audiovisuals, discussion, demonstration, and hands-on participation with dolls and through a virtual parent-infant lab.

The CIMI program is specifically designed for Nurses, Massage Therapists, Early Interventionists Specialists, Occupational and physical Therapists, Childbirth Educators, Child Life Specialists, Social Workers and other health care professionals who work with young families.

Register on line at: <http://www.lovingtouch.com>

##

Montana Youth Leadership Forum, July 19-23, Billings

<http://www.msubillings.edu/mtcd/mylf/>

The Montana Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF) for Students with Disabilities is a unique career leadership-training program for high school sophomores, juniors and seniors with disabilities. By serving as delegates from their communities at a four-day event on the campus of Montana State University - Billings (July 19-23, 2004), young people with disabilities will cultivate leadership, citizenship and social skills.

##

Cystic Fibrosis (CF) Update, July 26, Helena

CF occurs in 1 in 2,500 births in Montana. Advances in medications and treatments have dramatically improved the quality of life as well as increasing life expectancy. Topics will include: genetics, nutrition, physical therapy, personal stories.

RSVP before June 28th by calling 800-762-9891

When: Monday, July 26

Where: Montana Association of Counties, 2715 Skyway Dr, Helena

Time: 9am - 4pm

Cost: \$10 (includes lunch)

Call BJ Archambault at 406/444-0984 for more information

##

Using Digital Photos & Videos to Enhance Learning & to Document Student Progress A Field Study Course, July 26-29, Yellowstone Park

Course No.: EDCI 493-417 or EDCI 593-417

In this course participants will learn to use video and digital photos to enhance learning and as a tool for documenting student progress. Examples of documentation in a variety of settings will be discussed from gifted students, to students with severe learning disabilities and students with severe physical and cognitive challenges. Within the context of Yellowstone National Park, the workshop will simulate a classroom setting to 1) demonstrate the necessity to create lessons which meet the diverse learning styles present in all classrooms 2) give instruction and practice on using digital video and still camera equipment 3) learn new ways to apply this technology as a teaching and learning tool 4) give instruction and practice on importing digital media into a computer 5) create dynamic activities utilizing a variety of educational computer applications which import video and pictures. Groups of educators are encouraged to attend. OPI renewal units are available.

You can register at <http://www.msubillings.edu/outreach>

For information contact Ms. Terry Lankutis at 406/388-7831 or LankutisT@aol.com

##

S'Cool Moves, August 9-11, Miles City

by Debi Heiberger-Wilson, Miles City at MCC

Contact: Helen Murphy 406/485-2321 or email: dmurphy@midrivers.com

##

7th Annual Region 5 CSPD August Institute: August 11-13, Missoula

For more information or to register go to the Region V CSPD Online Registration website at <http://www.cspd.net> or contact Nancy Marks at admin@cspd.net or 728-2400ext 5036 for more information.

##

S'Cool Moves, August 16-18, Billings

by Debi Heiberger-Wilson, SUB Ballroom, MSU-Billings

For more information on the program, visit: <http://www.schoolmoves.com>

To register or download the brochure, visit: <http://www.msubillings.edu/cspd/events.htm>

For information, contact Deb Miller at the Montana Center on Disabilities at 406/657-2312 or dmiller@msubillings.edu.

##

AIMSweb Training Seminar, August 19-20, Billings

AIMSweb® is a formative assessment system that 'informs' the teaching and learning process by providing continuous student performance data and reporting improvement to students, parents, teachers, and administrators to enable evidence-based evaluation and data-driven instruction.

Based on over 25 years of scientific research, the AIMSweb system consists of Standard Curriculum-Based Measurement (CBM) testing materials and web-based data management and reporting applications.

Combined, these components provide schools a pro-active and preventative solution for documenting student achievement, identifying students at risk, demonstrating adequate yearly progress, and establishing and ensuring accountability.

Visit

<https://aimswed.edformation.com/training/TrainWrapper.cfm?inc=TrainList.cfm&step=1> or <http://www.learningclinic.com/seminar.html> for information.

##

Bright Solutions for Dyslexia, August 26, Hardin

Susan Barton will do an all-day presentation in Hardin, Montana. The public is invited, free of charge.

Speaker: Susan Barton, Founder, Bright Solutions for Dyslexia

Date: Thursday, August 26, 2004

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Subject: Dyslexia: Symptoms, Causes and Solutions

Venue: Hardin Middle School, 611 W. 5th Street, Hardin, MT

Room: Auditorium

Cost: FREE

Come learn the warning signs of dyslexia, the latest brain research, the genetic link-- and how to help students with dyslexia.

Lunch will be provided

Reservations are required by August 18.

To reserve a spot, contact Anna Gregerson at Bright Solutions for Dyslexia.

Phone: 408-559-3652 x8, E-mail anna@brightsolutions.us.

<http://www.dys-add.com/>

##

Training/Workshops/Conferences outside Montana::

Intermountain Special Study Institute, June 7-10, Idaho



Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho, will hold its Intermountain Special Study Institute on Deafness, June 7-10, in Pocatello, Idaho. This institute is an excellent opportunity for teaching and related services personnel to share knowledge, as well as to learn effective teaching strategies from recognized professionals in the field of deafness. The Office of Public Instruction will again be providing a limited number of stipends to pay for the registration fees of teachers of the deaf, regular education teachers and speech-language pathologists who are providing services to students who are deaf or hearing impaired in the public schools in Montana. Renewal units, as well as ASHA CEUs will be available to participants. Personnel who wish to apply for a stipend should contact Marilyn Pearson at mpearson@state.mt.us.

Go to <http://www.isu.edu/issi> for more information on the institute.

##

COLLABORATIVE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE, June 10-12, Colorado

COLLABORATIVE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE... of the Rockies will be held June 10 -12, 2004 in Westminster, Colorado. Assistive Technology Partners, at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and the Colorado Department of Education SWAAC teams are proud to announce the upcoming merger of their conferences. The new

venue, the Collaborative Assistive Technology Conference of the Rockies, will be the largest assistive technology conference in the Rocky Mountain Region. With over 50 sessions geared toward every age and disability, there is something for everybody! For more information, contact Maureen or Sherri at ATP/SWAAAC, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, 1245 E. Colfax, Suite 200, Denver, CO 80218, 303-315-1280, TTY 303-837-8964.

##

Access For All: Building, Funding and Improving Community Transportation, June 14-15, Seattle WA



June 14-15, 2004 - Washington State Convention and Trade Center, Seattle, WA
The Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) and the University of New Hampshire Institute on

Disability are sponsoring Access For All. This two-day conference, which will focus on building, funding and improving community transportation, will provide information on what you can do to further expand transportation services in your community. Special emphasis will be placed on expanding transportation options for persons with disabilities.

This conference is being held in conjunction with the annual Community Transportation Association EXPO, June 13-18. For more information on the EXPO, access:

<http://www.ctaa.org/expo/>. During the Access For All conference:

- Share ways to develop federal, state and local investment to increase accessible transportation services.
- Hear from colleagues who have developed models for community-based transportation planning.
- Learn ways to elevate the issue of transportation on a broad range of community agendas.
- Further hone your leadership skills for building effective transportation partnerships.
- Take home resources that will support you in expanding transportation in your community.

For registration, agenda and available scholarships, visit:

<http://www.ctaa.org/expo/2004/accessforall.asp>.

##



JUNE 20 - 22, 2004 "BYE-BYE BULLIES: UNDER THE MIDNIGHT SUN IN 2004", Alaska

This anti-bullying conference will be held at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts in Anchorage AK. For more information and to get on the conference mailing list please call or e-mail John Hoover (320-308-4091) (jhhoover@stcloudstate.edu). Please include surface and electronic mailing addresses.

##

RESNA 27th Annual Conference, June 18-22, Florida

Join us at the Rosen Center Hotel in Orlando, Florida to attend RESNA's 27th International Conference on Technology & Disability: Research, Design, Practice &



Policy, the premier conference for people interested in technology and disability.

For more information, go to

<http://www.resna.org/Conference/2004Conference/Conference2004.php>

##

JUNE 23 - 27, 2004 "DEVELOPING LOCAL SYSTEMS OF CARE FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS WITH EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCES AND THEIR FAMILIES: EARLY INTERVENTION" TRAINING INSTITUTE, San Francisco

Sponsored by the National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health and held at the Hilton San Francisco, San Francisco, CA. For more information go to

<http://gucchd.georgetown.edu/institutes.html>

##

Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (AG Bell) in Anaheim, CA, June 25-29, 2004

This biennial event offers attendees five days of unique learning experiences featuring the latest information on hearing loss, education and early intervention models, and hearing technology.

- Discover new ideas and gain skills at more than 100 short courses, concurrent educational sessions, and poster presentations on deafness and spoken language.
- Meet new and old friends at the world's largest gathering of parents of children who are deaf and hard of hearing, adults with hearing loss, and education and medical professionals.
- Explore the AG Bell Exhibit Hall and attend product demonstrations with a wide range of industry representatives.
- Join the fun at Special Events such as the Association Banquet, Association Luncheon, Family Dance, and AG Bell Night at Disney.

Attendees who register by March 25 will receive the early registration rate of \$225.00 for members, \$325.00 for nonmembers.

<http://www.agbell.org/>



##

JUNE 27 - JULY 2, 2004 "MY FUTURE, MY LIFE" TRANSITION SUMMER CAMP FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, Wisconsin

Sponsored by the U of WI - Whitewater Center for Students with Disabilities. For more information go to http://www.uww.edu/StdRscs/csd/my_future_my_life.php

##

Technology in Education, June 28 – July 1, Colorado

TIE IS COMING...The 18th Annual Colorado Technology In Education (TIE) Conference is scheduled for June 28th - July 1st. Join 1200+ Elementary and Secondary Teachers, Librarians, Information Literacy Specialists, Administrators, and Technologists for 4 days of HANDS-ON training with Windows, Macintosh, Palms, GPS, Digital Cameras and other education technologies. Join 80+ Exhibitors with displays and presentations on the latest hardware and software available for K-12 classrooms. University credit is available through the UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO. Keynote speaker is David Warlick, speaking on "Redefining Literacy for the 21st Century." Registration Forms and Information are available at: <http://www.tie-online.org/2004/>.

##

Disability Law Resource Project (DLRP) at ILRU Webcasts: June 30 – July 28

<http://www.ilru.org/online/>

Please join The Disability Law Resource Project (DLRP) at ILRU for a three-part Web cast series on Title I of the ADA.

Part II: Wednesday, June 30, 2004, 2:00 PM Central: Smart Disability--Related Employment Policies - James Passamano, Beth Sufian

Part III: Wednesday, July 28, 2004 2:00 PM Central: Challenging Accommodation Issues: Ask the Job Accommodation Experts - Linda Batiste and other JAN Consultants

<http://www.ilru.org/online/calendar.html>

##

Enhancing Young Children's Learning Through Objects and the Arts, July 18 – 21, Gallaudet University

Contact: Deborah Krichbaum

deborah.krichbaum@gallaudet.edu

Learn a new twist on tried-and-true methods to enhance learning for hearing impaired, special needs or typical preschoolers. This active-learning workshop uses everyday objects to create a bridge between what children already know and new experiences, using visual arts, creative movement, and children's literature. This hands-on, multi-sensory technique is appropriate for a variety of settings. The four-day workshop includes daily sessions in Washington's famous Smithsonian museums and is offered through a partnership with the Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center .

The *Learning Through Objects and the Arts* workshop runs from Sunday afternoon, July 18 through Wednesday, July 21

<http://clast.gallaudet.edu/summer/special/enhancing.html>



Participants will explore objects from community collections as well as from museums.

##

JULY 24 - 27, 2004 "LEARNING, LIVING, LEADING: YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES CONTINUING THE LEGACY" 2004 NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, Washington DC

This conference will be held in Washington, D.C.

<http://www.nyln.org/apply/2004conference.html>

NYLN
National Youth Leadership Network

The national voice for
young leaders with disabilities

##

Closing the Gap, October 21-23, Minneapolis MN

Pre-conference sessions October 19-20

Closing The Gap's Annual Conference has an international reputation as a leading source for information on innovative applications of



computer technology for persons with disabilities. The 2004 Conference builds on a tradition of providing a comprehensive examination of the most current uses of technology by persons with disabilities and the professionals who work with them.

Topics will cover a broad spectrum of technology as it is being applied to all disabilities and age groups in education, rehabilitation, vocation, and independent living. People with disabilities, special educators, rehabilitation professionals, administrators, service/care providers, personnel managers, government officials, and hardware/software developers will share their experiences and insights at what has become known as the most significant networking experience of the year -- the annual Closing The Gap Conference.

<http://www.closingthegap.com/conf/>

##

TASH Conference 2004, November 18-20, Reno NV

The TASH conference is one of the largest and most progressive international conferences to focus on model, innovative, and effective strategies for achieving full inclusion of people with disabilities. This invigorating conference brings together some of the best hearts and minds in the disability movement with several hundred presenters and features over 450 breakout sessions, exhibits, roundtable discussions, poster sessions and much more, jam-packed with info. It provides a forum for individuals with disabilities, families, researchers, administrators, educators, scholars, and others to create dialogue and action for social and systems reform. This is a wonderful opportunity to attend a conference with over 2500 other people from around the world (15 nations last time) which showcases national and local achievement and brings a global perspective to the community on issues of importance in the lives of people with disabilities and their families. For renewing the spirit, lifting the heart, and challenging the mind:



For more information and call for papers: <http://www.tash.org/>

Some of the more than 40 topics at the TASH Conference will focus on the following themes:

- Building Partnerships & Relationships, Communication
- Inclusive Education Across the Lifespan
- Transition, Community Living & Employment
- Diversity, Values, Equality, Advocacy & Ethics
- Quality of Life

##

How you can help!::



Birthday Time?

Does your child have a birthday coming up? Are you dreading the decorating, food preparation and cleanup? If so, Contact Bill at Montana Candy Bar & Deli at 294-2327. Montana Candy Bar & Deli offers birthday parties at their store located at 111South 24th Street West in the Rimrock Mini Mall.

They will do the decorating, provide lunch, ice cream and activities for the kids giving you an opportunity to sit back, relax and enjoy the party for a change. Be sure to take your camera for great photo of all the activities.

AND PLUK will receive a portion of the proceeds!

##

Get your Albertson Community Partners card!



PLUK has joined Albertsons' Community Partners Card Program. This program is designed to help non-profit organizations raise funds needed for their programs. A percentage of your grocery total will be donated to PLUK. All that is needed is to show your Community Partners card each time you make a purchase at Albertsons. It does not cost you anything.

If you are interested in assisting PLUK in raising funds this way, please contact Bernice at 255-0540 to get a Community Partners card.

##

Selected Sources::

1. *Monday Morning in Washington, DC*, <http://www.inclusionresearch.org>
2. *Rocky Mountain DBTAC*, <http://www.adainformation.org>
3. *Transition Newsflash*, Montana Center on Disabilities, <http://www.msubillings.edu/transition>
4. *PEN Weekly NewsBlast* <http://www.publiceducation.org>
5. *Reference Points: Transition updates from the TATRA Project*, <http://www.pacer.org/tatra/tatra.htm>
6. *The American Indian Disability Technical Assistance Center Training Calendar* <http://aidtac.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/TrainingCalendar.htm>
7. *Rural Policy Matters*, <http://www.ruraledu.org/rpm/rpm.htm>
8. *Technology for Nonprofits*: <http://www.techsoup.org>

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- View an *archive* of all Weekly eNews at <http://www.pluk.org/eNews.htm>

Mission Statement: Parent's Let's Unite for Kids unites parents, professionals, families and friends of children with special needs to support one another, and share information for the benefit of their children.

Vision Statement: Given information and support, individuals with disabilities and their families will feel empowered to advocate for themselves and participate fully in educational and community opportunities.

Statement on accessibility: Today, we endeavor to be conscious of the need for making all electronic information accessible, as we are aware of physical accessibility issues in our community. For design guidelines visit <http://ncam.wgbh.org/cdrom/guideline/>.

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